

Household Chatter

FOR COOL DAYS



A LINEN SHOWER

The "How, Where, and What" of This Gift Season for Brides.

BY EDNA EGAN.

As to the advisability of showers, there are many and various opinions. There are those who object to them as an extra and unnecessary gift tax. There are those who think that, nine times out of ten, it is only an invitation to the bride-to-be to give a party and receive, as some sort of toll, a lot of things she doesn't want and will never have the slightest use for.

In general, however, when a few of the prospective bride's friends get together and show in this way their affection for her, choosing a shower of articles which they know will please and delight her, I can not see a legitimate objection to the practice. And after all, whatever we may think, people will go on giving bridal showers, and brides will continue to receive them.

I have always had a fondness myself for the linen shower—one has such latitude of choice, all the way from the humble dustcloth to the elaborately embroidered lace and linen tablecloth. And now is none too early to begin planning such a shower for the June bride; you will want a full month at least to work on your sewing, be it merely hemming or some heavy and ornate embroidery.

Of course, household linen will hold the first place; it is seldom that any one gives lingerie at such a shower, though there is no reason why it should not be done, and am sure any girl would love to receive hand-made underwear, handkerchiefs, embroidered with new initials. Household linen includes a good deal, however, towels, centerpieces, tablecloths, napkins, even a good set of linen, dish towels, dish cloths, the like. Doilies and pillowcases are two other good ideas, according to the wishes to give bedroom linen.

It is a good plan to decide in advance what will be given and to each member of the party to do one portion of the work. One, if possible, may do all the actual sewing up; another the buttonholing, scalloping; a third the embroidery of initials and monograms, and on. A few hints as to this kind of work may not, perhaps, come amiss.

Embroider table linen with white embroidery cotton; your embroiderers will outlast the linen on which it is done. When a luncheon set is given, use only one initial on each piece, not a monogram. An initial alone may be used, and a spray of flowers or something of the sort may be worked under it in the eyelet or French embroidery.

In general, initials should be of a specified size for each piece. One rule reads: "Tablecloths, three or four inches high, napkins, one or one and a half; doilies, three or four; pillowcases, two inches." Other pieces

can be proportioned accordingly. Every piece of linen, "no matter how humble," should be marked with the bride's initials. It is not necessary, of course, to waste much time or thought on the marking of kitchen or pantry linen, however; a plain script or print in blue or red marking cotton is sufficient. It is pretty to hem these pieces in the same color; they will help make her new kitchen attractive to the bride-to-be.

CHARMING WAIST DESIGN



THE INTERIOR OF YOUR HOME

Many Hints on How to Make It Very Attractive and Beautiful.

BY LUCILE DAUDET.

Why not do the thing properly while you are at it? I know of one house where each room is thoroughly rehabilitated. New and different curtains appear at windows and doors and bookcases; fresh coverings, not shrouds, incase the chairs; even the bedclothes are fresh and of a lighter sort than those used in the winter. A word as to these bedspreads: Sometimes they are of coarse scrim, with crocheted insertions in heavy carpet warp; or the scrim is alternately adorned with drawn work in block pattern. Sometimes the spreads are of alternating stripes of crocheted and linen, the linen strips embroidered in eyelet or hedebo work. Hedebo and Venetian ladder work are, by the way, to be the modish forms which embroidery will take this season.

One lovely spread is of battenberg net, over which a pattern of cretonne is applied. The edges of these cretonne appliques are couched or are covered with an outline of chain-stitch done in coarse mercerized em-

broidery cotton. In this way the cut figures need not be turned in at the edges. A small design sprinkled all over the net may be used, or a large center medallion and corner figures, as desired.

The net and cretonne idea may be applied to curtains also and to the bureau scarf, pincushions and other accessories of the same sort. It is cheap enough and very pretty. Think how charming a room would look finished off in this way for the summer, and perhaps with a new wall paper with real cretonne appliques pasted on as dado and border!

You will want new pillows, too, for the window seat, for the porch easy chair and for the hammock. Make them plain; summer pillows are made to use. And make them washable; summer pillows soon get dirty. If you finish with a plain seam edge, you will avoid the various, discomfiting attending the ruffles and cords. About the prettiest pillows you can get are those denim or embroidered in outline, or both.

Linen crash also makes good covers for library and porch tables; but

if the table be a highly polished one, remember that crash scratches, and provide an interlining of canton flannel. There is no reason why the dining room should not be done over for the summer in the same way, with linen-colored crash covers for the sideboard and the serving table and for the dining table itself when not in use. If you employ a bare, polished table, you will find that it makes also very satisfactory centerpieces and dish stands. Finish the edges with buttonhole scallops, or, if you wish something more elaborate and the piece is embroidered, use coarse linen-colored cluny lace. You can get the effect by dipping white lace in strong coffee.

The embroidery on these dining room pieces should be done in outline stitch in some conventional design, though even coarse eyelet is possible.

Look, in short, to the simpler materials; they will give the house a fresh open-air appearance that is pleasant after the stuffy draperies of winter, and they are easy to wash and take care of.

FROM FASHIONDOM

BY MRS. KINGSLEY.

The sailor collar, which is very deep at the back and hardly exists at all in front, will be shown in our summer gowns.

Fichus will triumph in evening gowns. They are excellent when of Valenciennes lace and draped over princess gowns.

Beads are used to give striped effects on mouseline de soie. Black and white porcelain beads are placed in two lines on this popular fabric. Usually the vertical arrangement is chosen. Buckles and ornaments of beads finish the decorative feature of these simple gowns.

Don't neglect the ribbon trimmed hat! You may edge the silk with straw or contrasting satin and velvet. Lace also is used, but the ribbon bow on all sizes of hats is the thing.

Many hats are lined with a colored straw. Bright blue is faced with cerise, taupe with emerald green.

Small bonnets are gaining in favor. The use of velvet fruit is quite noticeable. Cherries, apricots, plums are most generally seen on the little toques. A stunning model shown by Carlier was of leghorn, faced with black velvet. At one side a yellow velvet apricot in a circle of leaves was the only trimming.

Blouses are of all-over lace, veiled completely or in part with chiffon. A deep cream-colored lace blouse was veiled on the lower part of the bodice with white chiffon. This showed the yoke and sleeves in their true glory. A band of copper-colored beads was used at the collar line.

Mouseline de soie blouses with dull silver or gold embroidery are being worn with afternoon suits on cool days.



Worth Knowing.

A greasy collar always makes a coat look horribly shabby. Clean it with a piece of flannel dipped in ammonia.

To mend tin place a piece of stiff brown paper across the hole, by means of cold water paste. Pour boiling water into the pan and allow to stand awhile. The pan can be washed in hot or cold water.

An appetizing breakfast or luncheon dish is made by boiling liver, chopping it very fine and mixing it with rice. The resultant hash may or may not be flavored with a little onion, according to taste.

To clean tarnished steel shoe buckles try rubbing them with emery powder. Cut steel may be brightened by shaking it in a bag of emery powder and rubbing it between the hands until the rust disappears. Then polish it with a soft chamois skin or dry cloth.

Mince the left-overs of any sort of meat, season highly, put a tablespoonful on a four-inch square of pastry rolled thin, fold, making a three-cornered turnover and fry in deep fat and you have a dish fit to set before the king, according to one household authority.

To remedy a scratched mahogany surface take the kernel of a Brazil nut, separate through the center, and rub the oil thoroughly into the scratched or marked place. The white mark will disappear entirely, then your favorite furniture polish may be applied to the restored surface.

Make Own Water Filter.

A home-made filter can be made in this way: Take a large flower pot, insert in the hole in the bottom a sponge, fill the pot with alternate layers of sand, charcoal, and small pebbles. The flower pot thus filled may then be placed on jar or other convenient vessel into which the water can be received as it filters through.

Spots on Calomine Wall.

Take a crayon, such as children use, as nearly color of calomine as possible, and rub on bare spot. This will improve matters much, if you have neglected to ask decorators to leave a small amount of each color when the spring cleaning was done.

To Clean Mica.

The mica in stoves can be made like new by washing with vinegar, slightly diluted. If the black does not come off immediately allow the

SIMPLIFY YOUR WORK

One woman sat down in her living room not long ago to figure this out. Her eyes rested on the walls, literally covered with pictures, banners and mottoes. They were all pleasant to look upon and helped in their memories; the sideboard was filled with cut glass and silver which needed frequent cleaning to keep it sparkling and pretty; the plate rack in the dining room was filled with plates and other plates were suspended from wire hangers; the table held numberless bits of bric-a-brac or handsome books. All these things needed care. So she started about the house and left only a few things, just enough to keep the rooms from looking bare. She put away most of the china, cut glass and bric-a-brac. Then she drew a sigh of relief that she would be saved so much work. Her task of simplifying was only just begun. The majority of women add to their duties by unnecessary work in all the duties which should be pleasure becomes burdens.

ON BROAD LINES



FOR GRAY HAIR

BY DELIA HOGSDEN.

"My hair is growing very gray," writes a dear mother of several children, some of them "grown." It was once a beautiful brown, she goes on to say, and incloses a lock to show how "streaked and ugly it is now."

What dye or bleach should she use? She is only 45. She does not want to look too old.

I took the little ring, with its touch of silver, pinned against the gentle letter, and lo! it cried out to me:

"Look, I am beautiful still; tell

this foolish woman not to hurt me with bleaches and dyes."

What a pretty ring it was, and how sentimental it made me feel! Fine hair, with a rich burnish of soft brown still, yet with the silver threads making it all the more charming. That illusive thing is called conscience, and which may lie at the core of even the most hardened beauty doctor, awake. I saw where my duty lay—I must preach a pleasant sermon.

As a general rule I stand ready to give such formulas. But when it comes to the mother of grown children, I will tell her first of all the injurious effect of chemicals on the hair, hint to her of their dubious taste for a lady of her dignified position.

A mother of sons and daughters may be as young as many a maiden—Cleopatra, who successfully stands the test of dyed hair, may even look more youthful. But dyed mother-hair and tall sons and daughters are not usual combinations, and, with all the rest, the hair of 45 being less vigorous than that of younger persons, there is danger of losing it entirely. In most of the hair dyes and bleaches the principal chemicals employed are nitrate of silver and lead, and these in the long run are as injurious to the texture and life of the hair as a flaming torch. They also stain the skin and are likely to cause eczema and wrinkles of the limbs, all of which is the more perilous to the middle-aged than to the young and strong.

The hair is still more seriously affected by the rapid graying of hair in any dye used; and that popular agent, peroxide of hydrogen, will, if persisted in, utterly ruin it, as many a foolish woman has found out. A little peroxide put in the rinsing water with an occasional shampoo is all very well; but the peroxide habit is like the morphine habit; she must go on till destruction comes to her. However, there are simple ways and means at least of restoring it, or somewhat, so let this mother of the once beautiful hair not despair, if she is bent upon hiding the, to her, detested threads of silver.

As nervous exhaustion is indicated by the rapid graying of hair in a youngish person—what is 45 but actually young nowadays?—internal medicaments are sometimes necessary. Nuxvomica and phosphorus, combined with arsenic or iron, are usually given for this. But arsenic is a dangerous drug and it should only be taken with a physician's permission, as all conditions may not call for it. So be very certain to show the family physician this topic first, and then abide by his decision. Fowler's solution of arsenic, one dram; muric acid tincture of iron, two drams; compound tincture of cardamom, one ounce; five drams.

If the doctor says yes, mix it together and take a teaspoonful three times a day.

THE "TOAD-STOOL" PARASOL



THE MENDING BASKET

The mending basket is sometimes a terrible thing. Many a busy mother never finds the bottom.

But there is a way to keep it a respectable size, at least.

In the laundry, or wherever the ironing is done, reserve the corner of some shelf for a small pincushion supplied with two or three needles of different sizes, a thimble, a pair of small scissors, two or three spools of cotton and a little box of buttons.

As the clothes are picked out of the basket to iron and you find a rent here, a rip there and a button off somewhere else, stop and fix it.

It takes but a minute, and the task of mending is so distributed that the mending basket is no longer the dread of so many weary sighs.